Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon, the special DTIM beacon ~~including~~ comprising a field having a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote a transmission of a data frame after the DTIM beacon; and

broadcasting ~~the~~a data frame that ~~includes~~ comprises at least load balancing information.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of claim 2, wherein ~~comprising:~~
~~broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon,~~ the special DTIM beacon is ~~being~~ configured in accordance with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 Standard, 1999 edition~~; and~~
~~broadcasting a data frame that includes at least load balancing information.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2~~3~~, wherein the data frame further comprises ~~includes~~ a test pattern.

5. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

broadcasting a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon, the special DTIM beacon comprising a field having a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote a transmission of a data frame after the DTIM beacon; and

broadcasting the data frame that includes at least load balancing information, the data frame being broadcast after a definitive time period has elapsed after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon~~; and~~

~~broadcasting a data frame that includes at least load balancing information.~~

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the data frame is broadcast immediately after the broadcasting of the special DTIM beacon.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcasting of both the special DTIM beacon and the data frame is performed by an access point.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information is computed from information pertaining to characteristics of wireless units in communication with the access point.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing an access point; and
broadcasting a modified beacon from the access point to a plurality of wireless units, the modified beacon comprises (i) a plurality of information elements comprising ~~including at least one of~~ an access point name, an access point identifier ~~internet protocol~~ information and a load balancing information, and (ii) a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of information elements.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon further comprises (iii) a test pattern, and (iv) a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication message (TIM) beacon.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the modified beacon is one of ~~each~~ a traffic indication map (TIM) beacon and a ~~each~~ delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

modifying a beacon ~~configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11~~ to produce a modified beacon, the modified beacon comprises a plurality of additional information elements comprising ~~including at least one of~~ an access point name, an access point identifier ~~internet protocol~~ information and a load balancing information; and

broadcasting the modified beacon.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a first frame check sequence associated with the plurality of additional information elements.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the modified beacon further comprises a test pattern and a second frame check sequence for the modified beacon.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the modified beacon is a traffic indication map (TIM) beacon.

20.   (Currently Amended) An access point comprising:

logic to broadcast a special delivery traffic indication message (DTIM) beacon ~~configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standard~~ comprising a traffic indicator comprising a traffic indicator bit that is set to denote transmission of a data frame; and

logic to broadcast the̶a data frame that i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ comprises at least one of a load balancing information and a test pattern.

21.   (Currently Amended) The access point of claim 20, wherein the data frame broadcast from the access point comprises i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ both the load balancing information and the test pattern.

22.   (Currently Amended) The access point of claim 20, wherein the load balancing information comprises i̶n̶c̶l̶u̶d̶e̶s̶ data pertaining to wireless units in communication with the access point and the access point.

23.   (Original) The access point of claim 20, wherein the test pattern is a static bit pattern.

24.   (Previously Presented) The access point of claim 20, wherein the logic broadcasts the data frame after a definitive time has elapsed after the special DTIM beacon has been broadcasted.

25.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises a count of a number of wireless units currently associated with the access point.

26.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises an indicator as to whether the access point is able to access one more more additional wireless units.

27.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises a value corresponding to a speed of an uplink from the access point to a backbone network at which the access point is coupled.

28.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the load balancing information comprises an indicator as to whether a count of a number of wireless units exchanging data at a rate or volume exceeding a predetermined threshold.

29.   (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the beacon is configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 802.11, 1999 edition.

30.   (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the special DTIM beacon is configured in accordance with an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.11 standard, 1999 edition.